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Reports On CIA Recruiting Do Not Concern Colleges

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There appears to be little concern at local colleges over reports that the CIA has been conducting secret recruitment of foreign students on U.S. campuses.

The recruitment activities, involving 150 colleges, were confirmed last week by CIA Director Stansfield Turner at the national convention of the American Association of University Professors.

Turner would not disclose which campuses were involved or what the foreign students were being recruited to do.

He did say that "very few" of the 120,000 foreign students in the United States are under contract to the agency.

Only a few local foreign students said they have been approached in the past by someone they believed was a recruiter from the CIA.

For instance, one Vanderbilt graduate student from Algeria, who asked not to be identified, said that two years ago he was offered \$100 to write a paper about his country.

The offer came from a man who said he represented a multinational corporation. The student said he believes the man was with the CIA.

Administrators at Nashville colleges said they have no knowledge of any secret or open recruitment of foreign students on their campuses.

"I have not had it brought to my attention in relation to our students," Joan Elliot, foreign student advisor at Tennessee State University, said.

James Worley, director of the economic development program at Vanderbilt, said he "would be surprised if the CIA were on the campus."

The recruiting of foreign students is usually accomplished by direct contact between the recruiters and the students, Lynn Snuffer, with the Washington-based Campaign to Stop Government Spying, said. It is also conducted through faculty members who are asked the names of potential recruits, she said.

In the past, the CIA has recruited American students at colleges through the placement offices.

Students were recruited to work at the agency's headquarters, but none has been recruited here in the past few years, college officials say.

The recruitment of American students would be welcome in the future if handled through the proper channels, most of the college placement office directors said.